

LETTERS

BETWEEN

SIR RICHARD HILL, BARONET,

JOHN HILL,

AND

EDWARD BURTON, ESQUIRES.

PUBLISHED BY THE LATTER.

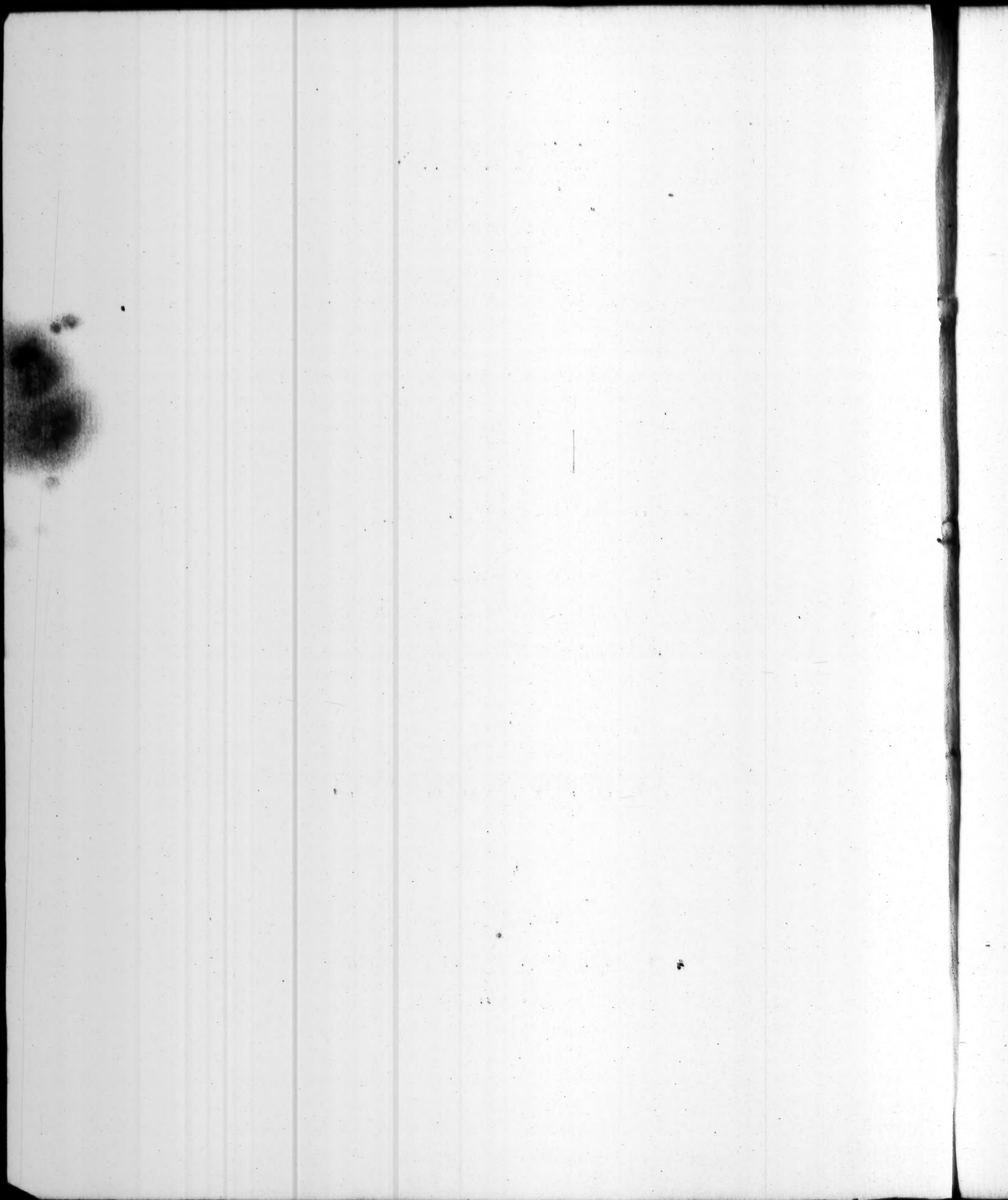
WITH

Notes and Illustrations.

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Sprenburg :

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1796.



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AS it is very foreign from my wishes to obtrude myself upon the public, I have hitherto deferred the publication of the following correspondence. Having passed through various scenes of active and military life, without ever being involved in a quarrel of any nature, or a serious difference with any man, I felt extremely unwilling to appear in the character of an author: particularly, as such a step would oppose me to one writer, who, I believe, always insists upon having the last word, and never yet (as I have heard) allowed himself to be in the wrong; although he has been engaged in a literary warfare (if such it may be termed) from the time of his residence at the University, down to the present period. I may also, with truth, add, that I was apprehensive, lest the consequence of publications should be a widening of the unfortunate breach between the principals in the present contest, and be the means of preventing a reconciliation;—an object I never totally lost sight of.

The perusal, therefore, of Sir Richard's pamphlet, entitled "Hard Measure," gave me more concern from the foregoing considerations, than from any facts which it established, or any assertions which it substantiated. Indeed, on being asked my opinion, whether any thing contained in it

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required an answer, I did not hesitate to declare, "that although it made charges of the blackest dye, yet they were totally unsupported by any thing but insinuation and abuse, and as all abuse is of a nature temporary and transitory, the pamphlet, if unnoticed, would quickly sink into oblivion: Answers," I added, "would keep alive animosity, and destroy the hopes of future reconciliation."

With this advice, I believe, the persons against whom it was written determined to comply, and would have allowed *injuries* so flagrant to be their own answer, had not the reiterated attacks of a "Supplement," and a second, nay a third edition, absolutely PROVOKED A REPLY.

For myself, upon further reflection, and when I perceived this implacable perseverance, I did indeed begin to answer it; conceiving I could point out its errors, and convince the *impartial* reader, that the Attingham family, when constrained and necessitated to come forward at all, had acted the *open, generous, manly* part, becoming men of honour. But soon finding that it was almost impossible to separate any arguments from the matter in which they were enveloped; matter, which I was ashamed to read, and still blush to remember; and being determined not to allow any such odious expressions to mingle with my composition, I threw my papers into the fire, resolved, that nothing so improper should get the better of my temper or good manners. I felt too, that I would not have been the author of that work for all the world. I was persuaded that no provocation, no injury (*had* any such been *offered*) could justify *such* resentment, expressed in *such* terms; and

and fearing lest I might possibly catch somewhat of its *spirit*, (which, had I done, I could never again have respected myself,) I determined to abandon it to those sentiments of disapprobation, which every good-natured and sensible person, let his party be what it may, *must* entertain of a publication so totally unwarrantable and unjustifiable.

Satisfied with the foregoing resolution, I had relinquished all thoughts of obtruding *my* name upon the public, until I received a letter from the author of "Measure for Measure," which occasioned me to exchange a letter with him and Mr. John Hill, the substance of which I shall lay before my readers, previous to the general correspondence. I have been also lately well informed, that it has been insinuated in London, amongst the readers of "Hard Measure," that the silence of the person concerned in the Caernarvon Conversation establishes the representation of it as contained in that work.

These motives will, I trust, operate as a sufficient apology, as well for my having deferred this publication so long, as for my now deferring it no longer.

As I have the permission of the two other gentlemen concerned in this correspondence to publish it in what manner I please, I have chosen to issue it forth at the same time with "Measure for Measure," for the sake of an easy method of distribution. But it will be remembered that I have no concern in that publication. I have never read, or heard read, a page either of the manuscript or proof sheets, nor shall I, until I purchase it in common with any other reader.

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The following Extracts will prove the best warrants for this publication :

" If, however, he wishes to investigate this business more fully, he is perfectly at liberty to publish his own letters to me, and my answers, that, by the perusal of both, others may form a proper judgment which of us have most cause of complaint."

P. S. 2d edit. Hard Measure, page 32.

LETTER

FROM EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO JOHN HILL, ESQ.

FEBRUARY 4th, 1796.

Having received a letter from the author of *Measure for Measure*, requesting I would furnish him with whatever information I pleased, respecting the Conversation at Caernarvon, between your brother and myself, I wrote to him as follows :

" I was at first a little doubtful, whether I ought to furnish an
" anonymous writer with the correspondence between Mr. John Hill, Sir
" Richard Hill, and myself, on the subject of the Caernarvon Conversa-
" tion, which is what you request information upon. But having obtained
" public leave from Sir Richard, to publish what has passed between us ;
" and having no right to suppose either he or Mr. John Hill have written
" what they are ashamed of ; having also ever declared, that I cared not
" who knew all I had ever advanced on the occasion : and moreover,
" considering that there will be *nothing anonymous in this part of your pub-*
" *lication*, I do not further hesitate to forward the inclosed letters, which
" will furnish you with the most material information on the subject."

Notwithstanding the foregoing, I sent only your brother's letters and my own, together with my answers to your letters ; and I added a postscript, to say, I doubted my right to publish your letters, without first obtaining

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your permission. They consist of four, and are dated 1st, 14th, 16th, and 18th December, 1795. If you do not choose to have them published, I can comment upon them, and publish my answers in exactly the same manner your brother has observed in his correspondence with Mr. Corbet, at pages 10 and 11 of second edition. But this would be gaining the advantage of relating only one side, which nothing but restriction should urge me to do.

ANSWER

FROM JOHN HILL, ESQ. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

FEBRUARY 4th, 1796.

I cannot, and shall not object to the publication of my letters by any person of character, who will avow himself to be the author of the publication; but I do not give my consent to their publication by any anonymous author. My brother has seen your letter, and joins me in this determination.

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LETTER NO. 1

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I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

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Yours truly,

LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

JOHN HILL, ESQ. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

DECEMBER 1st, 1795.

DEAR EDWARD BURTON,

I SHALL esteem myself very much obliged to you, if you will state to me, in writing, the purport of a Conversation which is said to have come from my Brother, in your's and the late Lord Berwick's presence, relative to my situation as Representative of the Town of Shrewsbury, as I find many reports injurious both to my Brother's Character and my own, are grounded on that interview.

I am,

Dear Burton,

Your's sincerely,

JOHN HILL:

An early answer to Mr. Sandford's, St. Mary's Church Yard, will much oblige.

LETTER

LETTER II.

EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO JOHN HILL, ESQ.

DECEMBER 1st, 1795.

DEAR JOHN HILL,

I HAD no idea of the unfortunate business now before us, when I was at the interview between your brother and the late Lord Berwick. All that I remember is, that you wrote to Lord Berwick at Chester, to signify "that by his permission you were likely to become Member for Salop, as Sir Robert Leighton would give up to you PROVIDED he had no objections." * Upon the receipt of this, Lord Berwick called with me at Hawkstone,† where his Lordship shewed a copy of his letter to Mr. Corbett of Longnor, and added, if you continued in the same inclination he supposed he must, in preference, support you.

I have always said I did not believe there ever was any agreement whatever between you and the late Lord Berwick, relative to the support he gave you. But I have often heard my friend express a wish and hope, that you would not be the means of thrusting a son of his out of the seat his father and himself had the honour of filling.
And

* Extract of a letter from John Hill, Esq; to Lord Berwick, dated *Præ*, Saturday Night, but received by Lord Berwick on the 14th of September, 1784.

† On the 13th September, 1784.

And I perfectly remember meeting your brother at Caernarvon, some time afterwards, when he voluntarily introduced this subject — (and I rather imagine it is this conversation you allude to) — by remarking, “ that if one of “ Lord Berwick’s sons had been of age to have offered “ himself, his brother would not have thought of the “ borough,” and, to the best of my recollection, he added, “ if ever one of them should hereafter think of it, “ he was sure his brother would not be the means of “ keeping him out.”

The above I mentioned to Lord Berwick, who replied — “ Ah! Ned, Ned, when John Hill has had long “ possession, I fear Sir Richard will think very differently.” This I also repeated to you, at Attingham, the last time of seeing you.

I remain, and hope long to continue,

Your’s sincerely,

EDWARD BURTON.

LETTER III.

EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO JOHN HILL, ESQ.

DECEMBER 11, 1795.

DEAR JOHN HILL,

IN reading over your letter which appeared in the Shrewsbury paper this morning, I find myself implicated in that part wherein you state having “ the most

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“ positive

" *positive assurances from your brother, declared in the strongest terms, that he never made any such promise, and that the thought never entered his mind.*" * As you have expressed how solicitous you are to vindicate your honour, I hope I may be allowed a fellow-feeling, in being equally tenacious of mine,

I beg to be understood, and to assure you, that in whatever "*strong terms*" your brother may have expressed himself, I do in the same terms and words, with equal force

* To explain these passages, it is necessary to introduce the following extracts :

" It is true my father, though certainly incapable of *making any dishonourable bargain*, doubtless harboured the *wish*, and, had he known *less of the human mind*, might have entertained the *expectation*, that such a sacrifice would be made; as Sir Richard Hill had expressed in conversation with a common friend, his high sense of the obligation his brother owed to my father's support, and, as it was then understood, more than insinuated such an intention. But no thought was ever entertained of claiming this as a promise."

Printed Address of W. Hill, 4th December, 1795.

" With regard to any promise made by my brother, Sir Richard Hill, which is disingenuously insinuated in Mr. W. Hill's address, tho' " no thought," it seems, " was ever entertained of claiming it," (yet if made, why not claimed ?) I have the most positive assurance from him, dictated in the strongest terms, that he never made any such promise, and that the thought never entered his mind."

Printed Address of Mr. John Hill, December 10, 1795.

See also further on this subject in the public addresses of Messrs. W. and J. Hill, dated 15th and 17th December, 1795, which are too long to be inserted here.

force of expression and comprehension, be they what they may, again repeat what I said to you on the second November last, and what I wrote on the first instant, to be a true and exact representation and detail of what passed from your brother to me at Caernarvon, on Sunday, the 21st of August, 1785, according to the best of my knowledge, recollection, and belief: and, with your "*respectable tradesman*," I am "*ready to confirm the declaration by the solemn formality of an oath*," even without insisting on its being "*the most irrefragable evidence*."

I cannot but think it somewhat odd, as you were informed of this conversation so long ago as the second of November, by oral communication; by letter, on the first instant; and by public address on the 4th, that your brother, if he deemed it counterfeit, never wrote to me on the subject. I allow I might not have been enabled to turn the bias of *his mind*, but if I had been given the opportunity of suggesting that the impression was strong on my recollection, from being made a principal in the transaction; from conceiving it told me to relate again, therefore particularly retained; that our friend's answer still vibrates on my ears; that if I could be capable of framing and forging such a narrative for what could no ways benefit myself; — there could be no design, however base and horrid, I should not be capable of undertaking: moreover, when I had reminded him of the treachery (to go no further for an instance) of his own memory, in a subsequent money transaction with the Attingham family, (which you very well know he had totally forgotten) perhaps

perhaps he might have been induced to have doubted his recollection, rather than through your means thus publicly to deny, what I shall ever as strenuously maintain, and shall warrant and request Mr. W. Hill as publicly to support.

I have confined myself solely to that part of your letter, which, I believe, refers to *me*. I suppose Mr. W. Hill will answer it more particularly. Surely it is vulnerable in every line.

I cannot think of the many pleasant and friendly days we have passed together, without feeling sorry that your temper should be so far got the better of, as to make you forget the promise proposed and ratified by you before me, that the contest should be amicably carried on. But I shall recollect the hope, that most of us may live many many years after the ensuing election is decided, and shall endeavour neither to say or do any thing that may be a breach of good humour or good manners. Notwithstanding, when we are violently attacked, we must defend.

I am,

Your's sincerely,

EDWARD BURTON.

LETTER

LETTER IV.

JOHN HILL, ESQ. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

DECEMBER 14, 1795.

DEAR E. BURTON,

AS I did not return home until too late for post on Saturday night, and was from home all day yesterday, I could not sooner acknowledge the receipt of your's of Friday's date. As my brother will be at home in a few days, I shall leave to him to answer that part in which he is more alluded to than myself, but must observe, that if there is any fault to be attached to any one, for your not having heard from my brother on what you said on the subject of the Caernarvon conversation to me, at Attingham, on the second of November, for I really never mentioned it to him, not thinking that a few accidental words, that might have passed between you two, ever could be construed into an agreement for me to resign my seat whenever a son of Lord Berwick's was capable of taking it. You must allow that William Hill's answer to my address mentions this circumstance in much stronger terms than you do yourself.

With regard to what you say of my second address being vulnerable in every line, if that is the case, I conclude I shall not be long without having the wounds opened: and if, as you assert, I have lost my temper in

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this unfortunate contest, or been too violent, I hope your own words, that "*when violently* attacked we must *violently defend*," will be all I need make use of in my vindication; for I flatter myself no one can ever accuse me of being the aggressor, in any one instance, in this unfortunate contest.

Most heartily wishing long to remain your sincere friend, I subscribe myself as usual,

Dear E. Burton,

Most truly your's,

JOHN HILL.

LETTER V.

EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO JOHN HILL, ESQ.

DECEMBER 15, 1795.

DEAR JOHN HILL,

I AM this instant honoured with your favour of the 14th instant, and as you give me to understand I shall receive an answer from your brother, on the Caernarvon Conversation, I will reserve my arguments on that subject for the occasion. I must however observe, that I think you go too far in stating, that it has been "construed into an *agreement* for you to resign your seat, whenever a son of Lord Berwick's was capable of taking it." Mr. W. Hill, in his address of the 4th, (wherein he alludes to this business) positively asserts,

"But

"But no thought was entertained of claiming this as a promise," which, if there be any meaning in words, affirms directly the contrary. Nevertheless, this should not have occasioned me to trouble you again, if another part of your letter had not, as I conceive, totally misrepresented and misquoted the conclusion of my former letter of the 11th instant. You state, and tell me, you mean to vindicate yourself by my words, that "when violently attacked we must VIOLENTLY defend."

If I wrote this, I ask a thousand pardons for it, and beg and pray you will allow me to recall so unwarrantable a sentiment, and that you will indulge me with a sight of it in my own writing, as nothing can sufficiently express the horror and detestation with which I abhor and impugn such a doctrine. I never will allow that violence ought to be opposed to violence: But, on the contrary, I will maintain it is *always wrong*. A man's part, in my opinion, is to be cool and determined. "Violent remedies destroy, (says a great historian) mutual confidence, and beget the most inveterate animosities; their consequences are commonly fatal, both to the public, and to those who have recourse to them." *Hume*, v. 4, c. 28. p. 8.

What I find in my copy of the letter to you is, "Notwithstanding, when we are violently attacked we must defend." This is what I believe you will find in the original; and if I were asked how it ought to be defended? I would reply, with *arguments and truth*: and such, I believe, those who have been in the habits of
conversing

conversing with me on this, or other business, will bear testimony, that I have invariably recommended; and they are what I think Mr. W. Hill has endeavoured to call to his aid. For although there may be passages in his address, which, *taken abstractedly*, might be deemed better suppressed: yet, when reconsidered, and known to be *constrained and extorted* from him in *reply and vindication*, and that "defence, not recrimination," is his professed object; surely the parliamentary phrase, that "what necessity requires, necessity justifies," will attach upon him; and his great moderation captivate the impartial.

It is upon this principle and conception of things, I am led to admire his conduct throughout; which I cannot but think exonerated. Nevertheless I am willing to allow something to *partiality*, and that I may be deceived. I would gladly be at issue dispassionately on this question with any man. And if I could receive reason I would be open to conviction. Suffer me again to add, that if I *have* miscopied my former letter, I will make any apology: but if I *have not*, and you have anywhere *represented* my sentence as you have *written* it, I hope you will take *even pains* to declare your mistake, as, during the interval, I suffer through your misrepresentation.

I am,

Your's sincerely,

EDWARD BURTON.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

JOHN HILL, ESQ. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

DECEMBER 16th, 1795.

DEAR BURTON,

I ACKNOWLEDGE to have been guilty of an error in quoting your words, the word violently being but once used by you. The great hurry I was in when I wrote to you will, I hope, excuse my being so incorrect. The letter not being likely ever to be made public, this cannot be of much consequence.

Your's truly,

JOHN HILL.

LETTER VII.

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART. TO JOHN HILL, ESQ.*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I HAVE this day received your's, and am quite astonished at the contents of that which you have had from Mr. E. Burton, and which ought to
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* As so much of the correspondence turns upon this Letter, it is necessary to insert it here, although before printed in *Hard Measure*, p. 12.

be most positively contradicted as soon as possible; I cannot answer for his memory; though I am persuaded he would not willingly misrepresent in order to serve a purpose, much less that his visit was with intent to draw any thing out of me, that he might in future take advantage of, when he called on me for a few minutes * at Caernarvon; at which time I do not know that a single syllable passed between us relative to the election, though it is possible something might be said on that as well as any other subject, especially as it was, I believe, soon after you came into Parliament. That I *might* mention our obligation to Lord Berwick for his support, is also very probable, though I knew that he was absent from home, when you were first invited to offer yourself; but upon the utmost stretch of my recollection, I do not remember that one word, hint, or idea, ever passed through my mind, much less through my lips, relative to your resignation on a future occasion to any son of Lord Berwick, or that I, or Mr. Edward Burton, started any thing whatever on the business. He is therefore much in the right to give his letter an appearance of candour, by making some concessions as to the abominable falsehood, which has been raised *somewhere*; and without which, Mr. W. Hill could not have had a word to offer, in his own behalf; but in order to add insult to injury, we are both of us accused of a breach of promise to palliate his ingratitude.

I further assure you my dear brother, upon my word and honour, that nothing even in the slightest way, ever passed

* See second note in Letter IX.

passed between me and the late Lord Berwick, on the subject of your giving up your seat to his son; if there had, you must certainly have been the first person to whom I should have mentioned it, but I am sure I should never have wished to see you sitting in the House of Commons, whilst under any such shameful and degrading circumstances, shameful and degrading not less to the town of Shrewsbury, than to yourself and to me; and certainly not much to the credit of Lord Berwick himself.

I shall only add, that as I most sensibly and gratefully feel my obligations to the county at large on my own account, so to the town of Shrewsbury in a most particular manner on account of us both; and therefore I hope you will rest assured, that as you were at first called to represent the borough in a way so very honourable to yourself, and so very handsome in your constituents, I should look upon a desertion of you, as a desertion of them, and of their dearest rights and privileges. In short, I think the town as well as most of the neighbouring gentlemen very cavalierly treated, without one shadow of a reason given for the indignity offered them, and, if I mistake not, they will think so too.

Believe me,

My dear Brother,

Ever most affectionately yours,

RICHARD HILL.

P. S. Mr. E. Burton says, he recollects some conversation between Lord Berwick and him, relative to your resignation

resignation in favour of his son, when you first came into Parliament; I pretend not to affirm, what might or might not have passed between these two gentlemen, when nobody was present but themselves; but as Mr. W. Hill was at that time quite a *baby*, it was looking very far forward indeed to view him seated in St. Stephen's chapel; and it is wonderfully strange, that during the space of ten or twelve years, not a syllable about this most submissive resignation should ever have been mentioned, or as far as it appears ever have been thought of, till the present occasion oiled up some rusty memories.

LETTER VIII.

EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO SIR RICHARD HILL, BART.

DECEMBER 30, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING this instant perused your pamphlet entitled "Hard Measure," and finding nothing therein which absolutely *demands* my *public* answer, I shall certainly for the present not intrude myself. Indeed, to be torn from my domestic fire side, and launched into the field of controversy, is neither consonant to my inclination, nor consistent with my habits. Nevertheless, as there are two or three particulars in that part of the publication relating to me, which I conceive are not "*the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,*" it is a justice I owe to myself to correct these statements; not doubting, (as I do

do not suspect you of having mistated "designedly") that if you publish another edition, you will do justice in noticing them one way or another, according to your judgement.

It may be the most brief and clear method to state your words, and afterwards my answers.

Page 12. "Much less that his visit was with intent to draw any thing out of me, that he might in future take advantage of, when he called on me for a *few minutes* at Caernarvon.

Answer.—On Sunday, the 21st of August, 1785, (according to my pocket-book and memorandums) I was travelling from Ireland, and in my way that day from Gwyn-du, I halted at the Boot, at Caernarvon. Soon after my arrival, my servant (George Thornton, now keeper of the Raven and Bell Inn, in Shrewsbury) informed me you were in the house, and upon your hearing of the same of me, you desired to see me, when you very politely told me, you had the best, if not the only dining-room in the house, and requested we might dine together; which we did, and afterwards passed the whole evening, and supped together, and I believe breakfasted together on the 22nd, after which I proceeded to Festiniog and Dolgelly.

It was during our evening sitting, that you *voluntarily* introduced the conversation which has been so much alluded to. And the more maturely I have considered this business, the more and more am I satisfied, that at the

last period of my life, I shall as cheerfully confirm all I have ever advanced on the subject, as I most assuredly do at this moment. You insinuate this, "as a visit or calling on you for a few minutes;" but surely the "*whole truth*" differs materially in the construction, and proves that your memory is not so very accurate as it ought to be, to justify the very peremptory manner in which you decide between us at the beginning of your letter to your brother. p. 12.

Page 13. — "He is therefore much in the right to give his letter an appearance of candour, by making some concessions, as to the abominable falsehood, which has been raised somewhere."

Answer. I do not comprehend the meaning and extent of the foregoing. If it is insinuated that my declaration was fabricated, you are not consistent with yourself; because, "*you are persuaded I would not willingly misrepresent in order to serve a purpose.*" Page 12." This answer serves also for the three first lines of page 24, if I am implicated in them. In reading over the copy of my letter here alluded to, I cannot find any thing *rude*: but why that should be construed into "*an appearance of candour, by making some concession,*" or what those concessions are, I cannot understand: and shall be glad to be informed: being conscious to myself I never meant to retract one syllable of what I had advanced.

"Mr. E. Burton says, he recollects some conversation between Lord Berwick and him, relative to your resignation in.

in favour of his son, when you first came into Parliament; I pretend not to affirm what might or might not have passed between these two gentlemen, when nobody was present but themselves; but as Mr. W. Hill was at that time quite a *baby*, it was looking very far forward indeed to view him seated in St. Stephen's chapel; and it is wonderfully strange, that during the space of ten or twelve years, not a syllable about this most submissive resignation should have been mentioned, or as far as it appears ever have been thought on, till the present occasion oiled up some rusty memories."

Answer. — I wish I could make the same observation on this postscript as upon my own letter in the last article. Independent of my recollecting the late Lord Berwick's sentiments, Mr. Corbet has likewise assured you that he and *others* have frequently heard them. Amongst them I may enumerate Mr. Phillips, of Onslow, in particular, as one of his most intimate friends: so that instead of what you affirm, that "not a syllable of this "business has been mentioned for these twelve years," on the contrary, many are on record: for the testimony of the late Lord's friends has been invariable. But that all these persons, because they happened to state, what may not be exactly agreeable to your ears, should be treated with sneers and contumelious epithets, is not to be reconciled with my ideas of philanthropy, or the principles of the Christian Religion, under which I have been educated.

* You must permit me to remark, that you stand upon too high ground, in condemning every one who may dare to appeal to his memory, except yourself. You should recollect

lest that the honour of a person *affirming*, is much more injured by a denial, than that concerned in the *negation*; because, if the former can be convicted, he must have been base enough to have been guilty of fabrication; whereas the *memory* of the latter is the only point attacked. And that *your* memory has proved treacherous, I have not only stated in the foregoing instances; but you may perhaps know that I hinted it before, relative to a money transaction; and that I have in my possession a letter of yours, wherein you have made declarations, and drawn conclusions upon *four reasons*,* which are afterwards proved to be *all* misrepresented through the failure of your *recollection*. When you can prove that my memory has been equally fallacious, or that I have ever misrepresented any serious transaction in which I have been concerned, you will then have a right to conclude as decisively as you please, that it is impossible you should be in the wrong. But until then I am persuaded the world in general will give me credit for my positive affirmation, when it stands opposed to (at the most) your want of recollection.

I am,

Your obedient, humble Servant;

EDWARD BURTON.

* This affirmation was never further enquired into;

LETTER IX.

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

DECEMBER 31, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

THE breach made by some *designing* men between the houses of Attingham and Hawkstone, is I fear likely to be attended with unhappy consequences to both. As far as I may have fallen into any error relative to the visit or conversation at Caernarvon, I am very willing to retract it, and even *publicly*. I have nothing in view but truth, and no wish, but *that* should be known to all the world. An attack has been made upon *me* which I little expected, and I must defend myself as well as I can.

It is certain that I mentioned your calling on me for a few minutes at Caernarvon, and when you first came in, I *still** think (though so many years ago) that your stay in the room with me was not for any longer period, and it was during that time I apprehend that the supposed conversation took place, when I was as much *off* my guard, as you might probably be *on*† your's: but if it

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was

* See Note below.

† " In the first place, here is a direct affirmation on the one side; and negation on the other. But as we do not wish to question the *character* of either, as to veracity, let us try the circumstance by another criterion, namely, its *probability*.

" It

was the last word I had to utter, I do not recollect that a syllable passed concerning the election, except in a general way. If any thing had transpired relative to the future resignation of my brother, surely I should have informed him of it at the time; or if I had not, it is strange indeed that neither you nor the late Lord Berwick

"It is *probable*, that a man of the strictest honour and veracity, may, from great forgetfulness and want of memory, declare that he *never* held a particular conversation with another person, when in fact he had; for a man may *forget* a thing which was once in his knowledge; but it is extremely improbable that a person of this description should declare that he held a conversation of a particular nature, and *describe* that conversation, when in truth no such ever passed. No man can well say that he remembers a thing that never was in existence: want of Memory may make a man forget a Truth, but it can never lead him to invent a falsehood. Besides, it is more probable that a conversation of this nature should make a greater impression upon the mind of one who was so much the confidential friend of the late Lord Berwick, and had so much the good of his family at heart, than it should upon Sir Richard, who had no great interest or wish to preserve it in his memory.

"But in estimating the degree of credit to be given to either of the persons, who differ so materially in their statement; there is also another rule, viz. that if a man is incorrect in one part of his testimony, it invalidates, in a very great degree, the remainder. Now let us try the evidence by this rule.

"Sir Richard states it to have been "*the conversation of a few minutes with Mr. Burton, when he called upon him at Caernarvon.*" Mr. Burton, in the first place, *at that very time* entered in his pocket book the day and year on which this conversation took place, which was on Sunday the 21st of August, 1785,—and declares that Sir Richard "*first desired to see him;*"—and then proceeds to state most positively, *that*

wick should ever have given him a hint of it for ten or twelve years. But granting to the full extent every thing You have alledged on that subject, what does it amount to?

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that they dined and passed the evening together, and that during the conversation Sir Richard voluntarily introduced the election business.— Could Mr. Burton invent all this? If it was not so, his veracity must be called in question; because it is impossible that Mr. Burton, from want of memory, should state it. It is possible that a man may forget having dined and supped with another a few years ago, and forget a conversation which it was not his interest perhaps to recollect — we have a notorious instance of this in Mr. Middleton.— But there never was a Mr. Middleton who, from want of recollection, believed that he dined and spent the evening with a person, and during that time held the most interesting conversation, when in fact he never did. But Sir Richard would insinuate, under a feigned declaration to the contrary, that “ Mr. Burton came to him with a view to draw something out of him, that he might in future take advantage of,” — Why cut your throat with your own razor, Sir Richard?—If Mr. Burton was on his guard, and you not so, it is a good reason to suppose that he is the most accurate; and makes it the more extraordinary, that with a consciousness of not being so much upon your guard as he was, you should venture to be so positive in your contradiction of him.

“ Mr. Burton’s statement is positive and direct as to every circumstance, and that of a man who speaks with precision and with certainty as to his recollection of what passed—he says, that *he was sent for by Sir Richard; that he dined with him, supped with him, and that they spent the whole of the evening together — and during that time had the conversation in question.* — What can we say to the following statement: “ *He called upon me (says Sir Richard) for a few minutes, at which time I do not know that a single syllable passed about the election, though it is possible something might be said on that as well as any other subject, as it was so soon after the election.*” — O Sir Richard, you deal in quibbles and equivocations! “ There is not a man in Venice that should lend his ear to such a tale.”

The Hilliad, pages 7, 8, 9.

In truth to nothing at all, but a private conversation between you and me, which was binding to no other person or persons whatever, either from honour or promise; and surely the present Lord Berwick must have been of the same mind, when he first signified his intentions of putting up his brother; else why was it never so much as mentioned, when he wrote both to my brother and to me on that business?

That on your return to the Inn at Caernarvon we might dine or sup together, I by no means deny. It is probable that my wish for your company, as well as there being only one tolerable room, might cause me to make this request to you; though neither I, nor the servant who was then and is *now*, with me, and who I conclude waited at table, remembered the circumstance. But will you say that any further conversation relative to the borough of Shrewsbury then took place? or that any has taken place whenever I have had the pleasure of seeing you since that time?

The letter to my brother was I confess written in great hurry, *immediately* on the receipt of his; as I thought no time should be lost in contradicting the reports which from your statement had gone forth: if therefore I have expressed myself too warmly, much more if any thing have escaped me which favors of the cynical or irascible, I am truly sorry for it, and ask your pardon; but I was hurt when I wrote, and I unboomed myself to a brother, according to the feelings of the moment; and when the letter was sent, I certainly was not at liberty to alter it. But perhaps a good deal more of the severe
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and acrimonious may be found in your letter just received, than in that you so much censure from me. Of this, however, others will best judge, if both should hereafter appear before the public eye, which may not perhaps be necessary. After all, we are but just where we were. Your *circumstantial* memory retains, what my *treacherous* one has so totally lost, that *on the utmost stretch of it* I do not recollect one word that passed between us on the business of the election at all, though as observed, it is very probable something might pass in a general way.

If any thing more be necessary, I will add, that from my own personal knowledge of, and long regard for you, I totally acquit you of any *wilful* misrepresentation or sinister design of perverting the conversation between us at Caernaryon, the principal part of which was not, I conceive, committed to your pocket book, as you say in your letter that "*to the best of your recollection,*" (which plainly indicates some doubt) Sir Richard added, "*if ever* one of them (Lord Berwick's sons) should hereafter think of it, he was sure that his brother would not be the means of keeping him out."—Now to the very *best* of mine, nothing of the kind ever did or could come from my lips; if there did, I must have been a *fool* at the time for saying so, and a liar at present if I remembered it.

Permit me now to add, that if your feelings have been wounded by my letter, my own have not been healed by what you mention of my recollection on the *money business*, which I thought had been explained to you in the most satisfactory manner by my brother, and that you had acknowledged under your hand to him, that no

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blame could possibly attach to me, or even to my memory, on that account, as I was abroad during the whole of the transaction to which the money was appropriated.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

RICHARD HILL.

P. S. I was just going to fend this away when my brother arrived. He desires me to say that he saw Captain Phillips just before he left town, and had a good deal of conversation with him on the election business, but not a word was said by Captain P. on the subject of any promise or *hint* of resignation directly or indirectly. My brother farther desires you to ask your own judgment, whether Lord Berwick was *at that time likely* to enter into any *confidential* discourse with Mr. Corbet of Sundorn on Shrewsbury politics!

I fear by adding this postscript I am too late for this night's post.

LETTER X.

EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO SIR RICHARD HILL, BART.

JANUARY 4, 1796.

DEAR SIR,

NO person can more lament the unfortunate breach between the houses of Hawkstone and Attingham than I do, and whether it may have been made
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"by *designing men*," or in the natural course of events, I am not without hope of living to see the memory of it buried in oblivion.

I cannot unequivocally say I return you many thanks for your letter, for although in some places, like your pamphlet, it seems to make allowances, or, as your letter terms it, "is willing to retract," and (even more than I expect) is desirous "to ask my pardon," yet, what is given in one line being recalled in the next, or some subsequent sentence, no reader can decide what is *answered*, *allowed*, or *denied*.

With this general and I believe true observation, it is not a little embarrassing to determine where to commence remarks upon those passages which forbid silence; yet require to be stripped of their obscurity; to be placed in the light wherein they ought to stand—and to demand an unqualified assent or denial. But whilst I find arguments and truth upon my side, I shall venture to proceed upon them.

To go back to our Caernarvon interview, I find we again differ upon another point: *You* think my stay in the room with you was but for "a few minutes," and during that time you apprehend the supposed conversation took place.—I am positive we dined and passed the day together: and that during the evening you *voluntarily* introduced the election business. Here then we are again at issue, and we must abide the decision of those who choose to sit in judgement, as to the degree of credit each may obtain. You have the advantage of me in hav-
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ing your statement in print, which you are welcome to enjoy: But I shall not hesitate to relate what I know to be the truth to all my acquaintance whether of my own party or of your's. I have already stated to your brother that this conversation made a strong impression on my mind; because, willing to be correct, I in a manner got it by heart, thinking it was delivered to me by way of message to relate again. You assert that "you were as much *off* your guard, as I might probably be *on* mine." Yet "you totally acquit me of any wilful misrepresentation, or sinister design of perverting the conversation, " &c." Notwithstanding, however, this broad and satisfactory acknowledgement, it appears to me, if I understand the meaning of words, as if you did *not* acquit me of something sinister. I must, it seems, be *on* my guard; you must be *off* your's, which means, if it is intended to mean any thing, that I came for the purpose of converting the hour of convivial intercourse into an inquisitorial tribunal, and called upon you (admitting that I *did* call) under the pretence of paying my respects, while the real object was to entrap you in your speech. Surely an insinuation of so odious a nature is what I flatter myself my character does not deserve, and it more than repays any thing severe and acrimonious which *you say* may be found in my last letter.

Why you did not inform your brother of the opinion you had delivered, does not rest with me to determine. I executed my commission, and I had no reason to suppose you would either forget or change. Perhaps you might not see your brother soon afterwards, and as you went abroad the next year, you might easily have neglected relating to him what had passed, until the deferring it occasioned

occasioned it to slip your memory. I do not comprehend how either Lord Berwick or myself could well have "given your brother a hint of it for ten years." Indeed Lord Berwick having been dead for the *seven* last years, accounts for more than the majority of them, and you yourself account for such silence during the former *three* years, "as Mr. W. Hill was at that time quite a *baby*, it was looking very far forward indeed to view him seated in St. Stephen's chapel." As to *my* giving such a hint it would at any time have been presumption: but when the opportunity *did* serve, and I met your brother at Attingham, at the most early period of this business, on the 2nd and 3rd of November last, I immediately mentioned it, and I have always lamented he did not as speedily inform you of it, as we might then have been spared appearing before the public.

On your general comment upon the amount of all that that has been alledged on this affair, I am inclined to think there is very little if any difference betwixt us. It certainly was no promise, but only your opinion at the time, which was not binding on your brother. As to the present Lord Berwick not mentioning it when he first signified his intention of putting up his brother," I am not certain whether he *knew of it*. The *first* time I remember mentioning it to Mr. W. Hill was upon his return from Hawkstone, when he told me of the anger you expressed at *his* thinking of the feat. I then immediately replied — "that if I had been present, I could have reminded Sir Richard of a conversation we had at Caernarvon when he might recollect once thinking very differently, and that

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" I feared his (Mr. W. Hill's) father's words would be " verified."—I then exactly related what has been published, never dreaming of its being denied or forgotten. I cannot reconcile your memory serving so substantially to enable you to recollect my coming into the room at Caernarvon for a few minutes, and totally forgetting our walking round the town and passing the remainder of the day together. Since receiving your letter I have applied to George Thornton at the Raven and Bell, who tells me he has a perfect recollection of my meeting you at the Boot in Caernarvon, and dining with you, and passing all the remainder of the day with you, and that he dined with your *Harper*.

You ask if any further conversation relative to the borough then took place? or whether any has taken place whenever I have seen you since that time? In answer to the first question, I well remember you talked a good deal about the borough of Shrewsbury, and were pleased to compliment me by saying, if any of my family had shewn an inclination for it, your brother would not have opposed any of us; and this I mentioned to your brother in the detail on the 2d and 3d November last; but it being nothing in point, I never noticed it further. Relative to the other question, you must know I never have had any opportunity of conversing with you on the subject; and if I had, why should I have doubted your recollection or change of sentiments? Immediately as I was informed of it I mentioned all I knew.

You alledge in excuse for the peevish expressions of your letter to your brother, that it was *written in great hurry*.

hurry. I hope for your own sake, and I believe, on your assertion, as well as on the *internal* evidence, that it was so. But, as I take it, it was not *printed* in a hurry. Surely there must have been time enough to correct any little acerbity which might have been thrown off in the haste of composition. Shall I then offend you, (I assure you it is not my intention to do so) if I ask whether you were not loth, on a second perusal, to stifle all the smart things which you have said against me? for against *me* alone, as I conceive, can they, in fair construction be pointed: and whether you have not in reality congratulated yourself, upon having so good an opportunity of giving them vent, and at the same time upon having in reserve so good an apology, as that they were written *in a great hurry*?

I am truly sorry if I have hurt your feelings in again introducing the *money business*, which however I cannot think ought to wound you. You certainly explained it satisfactorily, and I again repeat "No blame could attach upon you or your memory as to any design." But certainly it being one instance of the treachery of your memory, it was necessary for me to point out some *within my own limited knowledge*. And I trust upon reconsideration you will not judge it irrelative or improper to produce *all* such evidence as I find in my possession; nor can you deem it an unfair inference to conclude, that what *has* happened in such given instances, may be possible, if not probable in *others*, and particularly, in that in which we are at issue.

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I have confined myself solely to that part of your pamphlet which concerns me, otherwise, I could in addition, have *proved** you incorrect in a statement wherein my family were concerned in what you allude to, long before it was connected with the Attingham branch. And is it not a little singular, that in every transaction in which you have been concerned, that has come to my knowledge (and I have enumerated them all except the one now mentioned, to the best of my recollection and belief) you have always mistaken or forgotten something.

I come now to your postscript, wherein you mention "Captain Phillips not saying a word on any promise or hint of resignation, directly or indirectly." I should greatly wonder if he had, for I have ever looked upon this as the working of fancy; the phantom of the imagination; or the chimera of the brain. Nor has it ever yet been *proved*,—*although promised*,†—that any friend of the late Lord Berwick ever thought there was any agreement or promise whatever between your brother and his Lordship, relative to the support he gave him. But I dare venture to affirm Captain Phillips, with most or all Lord Berwick's confidential friends, have often heard him express a wish and hope that Mr. J. Hill would not be the means of keeping or thrusting a son of his out of the seat his father and himself had the honour of filling for so many years. This invariable testimony might perhaps have given indirect occasion for "*the abominable falsehood raised somewhere.*" By the declaration some who heard it, *even of your own party*, may have put their construction upon it; and
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* This observation was never further enquired into.

† See Mr. J. Hill's Address, Dec. 17th, 1795.

we all know a report once raised, soon spreads. You were satisfactorily informed by the principals both privately and publickly, that no promise or agreement was ever made. And I could give reasons to shew it ought to have sufficed, and that all the wrangle about it has been only catch-words. But as this would lead me into your book I hasten to the conclusion of the postscript, which is "a desire from your brother for me to ask my own judgement, whether Lord Berwick was *at* that time *likely* to enter into any *confidential* discourse with Mr. Corbet of Sundorn, on Shrewsbury politics?" I do not hesitate to declare I believe he *was likely*. Mr. C. being before that time sincerely reconciled to his brother in law Sir C. Leighton; and he and Lord Berwick having (as at present with the son) espoused the same side; and being on terms of visiting for four years preceding; and neither of these gentlemen having it in their composition to carry on tedious malignity; I believe all their former animosities were buried as they ought to be; and that they were at this time on terms of encreasing friendship. In going through every article of your letter, I find nothing tending to clear the mist I was left in, relative to *the appearance of candour by making some concessions*, which I had been accused of, and which I had so particularly requested to have explained.*

My earnest desire to give information and to be explicit, will, I hope, plead an excuse for the unusual length of my letter.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your obedient, humble Servant,
EDWARD BURTON.

* It should be remarked, that in two subsequent answers from Sir R. Hill, no notice is taken of this request.

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LETTER

LETTER XI.

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

JANUARY 5, 1796.

DEAR SIR,

UPON reading over your letter, I find we are but just where we were. Your memory furnishes you with what has totally escaped mine. I am not used to get *tete a tete* conversations by heart, nor to put them down in my pocket book but when enjoying free discourse with a friend I always suppose, that we are neither of us suspicious of each other.

There might be a few words different in the letter which appeared in print to that which I wrote to my brother, of which I scribbled over a very hasty copy just before it went to the office. But they were upon being compared, so very nearly *verbatim* the same, that when the letter went to press my brother wished me to leave out the words "*in substance*," urging that the copy was an exact one. It is true I might then have expunged what favoured of the acrimonious, but I did not, therefore so far I was culpable.

That we spent the whole day together at Caernarvon I positively deny, as far as I can call to mind any thing which happened at that distant period. You fix the time for one *Sunday*. Now to the very best of my remembrance (as well as of my servant's) I went twice to church
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the only Sunday whilst I was there, and I do not recollect that you were there either morning or evening. You may however fix the time of our conversation to what hour or minutes you please, as it is quite out of my power to contradict you, nor can I think it is your wish to misrepresent; but it is rather strange that after you had booked my words or got them by heart, you should afterwards only say that to *the best of your recollection* Sir Richard Hill spoke so and so.

What Mr. W. Hill could mean by telling you *how angry** I was when speaking on the election subject at Hawkstone, must be left to him to explain. The parties present were, Mr. W. Hill and his dear and amiable brother Richard, (for so I feel him to be to me) my brother John and myself; and if the smallest emotion of *anger* appeared either in my words, looks, disposition, or actions, I desire to forfeit all pretence and claim to truth as long as I live. On the contrary I felt all that affection which from his childhood I had felt for Mr. W. Hill, and not knowing or suspecting how long the plan for my brother's overthrow had been in agitation, I solemnly declare I experienced no other sensations towards him (Mr. W. H.) except *that* affection mingled with compassion for his misguided importunity.

And now dear Sir what *you* can mean by a son of Lord B's being *thrust* out by my brother is still more wonderful

* Mr. W. Hill is ready to allow that by *anger*, he did not mean violence or rage, but displeasure.

derful than Mr. W. Hill's discovery of my *anger* at Hawkstone. Be pleased to weigh the idea, in the balance of calm reflection,* and I will require nothing further at your hands.

Permit

* If I comprehend Sir Richard I suppose he means to argue, that his brother cannot *thrust* out Mr. W. H. because he has as good a right to represent the Borough as any one else. But this is the very point in dispute between us. *We* say, that it must have been very natural for the late Lord B. to have understood at the time that Mr. J. H. would not, in future, be the means of keeping out a son of his: and we say further that the long connexion which has subsisted between Lord B's. family and the Borough, and the vicinity of their residence, &c. give them a superior claim to aspire to the honour of representing this Borough in Parliament to any which can be pretended to, by the house of Hawkstone. I will put the case that Wem or Whitchurch was a Borough town; that Sir Richard was elevated to the peerage, and his brother John was to die, leaving a family of minors. In this supposed case, it might be very natural, that Sir R. would give his interest to one of his cousins at Attingham; and this by the way of keeping up the connexion of the family with the Borough. But if at a subsequent period, Mr. W. and Mr. R. H. did not retire, and leave the way clear for one of Sir Richard's nephews to offer himself to the suffrages of the electors,—in my opinion he would act very improperly; and would *thrust* his relation out. And I cannot help further thinking, that if such a supposed case were to exist, Sir R. H. would occasionally express his *apprehensions*, his *hopes*, or his *wishes*, exactly in the same, probably in *much* stronger terms than those which the late Lord B. appears to have used in the case now before us. Nor can I see any thing in all this, which would in the least trench upon the right of the electors of Wem or Whitchurch. Since Mr. W. or Mr. R. H. in the supposed case, would not say, "You *must* elect my cousin;" but only, "I am much obliged to you for the honour you have done me, in electing me one of your representatives so long; but as my cousin is now of age, and as his natural interest in your Borough is much superior to mine, " I will

Permit me now to conclude this letter on a subject with which your's of this day, and my last both began, I mean the breach made between the Houses of Attingham and Hawkstone, which has already proved a most unhappy one to both, tho' I am convinced a very joyful one to those who have been busy at work to effect it. Had we continued to live in the same habits of social intercourse, which had so long subsisted between the families, uniting on all occasions our endeavours to promote each others welfare, it would not have been in the power of a whole legion of *designing men* to hurt us or weaken our influence whenever we wished (as we always ought) to help or oblige each other. The fable of the old man, his sons,

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"I will *retire*, that I may not be any impediment to his offering his services to you." Nay, I will go further, and will admit, that if the electors were to say in reply to this, "Sir, your conduct is open and honourable, and worthy of yourself: but we do not chuse to elect your cousin: you have endeared yourself so much to us by your regular and punctual attendance upon your duty in Parliament, and to all our requests when there; you are so much a man of business, and every way so excellently qualified for a senator, that we will have you, and nobody but you, for our representative." I will admit, I say, in this case, that Mr. W. or Mr. R. H. might conscientiously and fairly accept the honours thus *thrust* upon them. But till I hear some such language pass between Mr. J. H. and the Borough of Shrewsbury, till I hear a numerous and respectable majority of my brother electors declare that if he pertinaciously resolves to retire, he will carry with him the regret of the town; and that in such a case they will not elect Mr. W. H.—till I hear this, I must adhere to my former opinion that "a son of Lord B.'s is *thrust* out by Sir Richard's brother." Such are my ideas when weighed in the balance of calm reflection!

and the bundle of twigs would have been peculiarly adapted to us.

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely and faithfully,

R. HILL.

I did not get your letter till a short while before dinner this day.

P. S. I have this moment been questioning my servant about the day of our interview at Caernarvon, and cannot persuade him that it was on a Sunday, however if you made a memorandum of it, you must be right.

LETTER XII.

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

JANUARY 6, 1796.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING had a very small portion of time to write yesterday, and observing that I had omitted an answer to some parts of your letter which I meant to take notice of, I beg you to receive what follows by way of addition.

In the first place, by your drawing a score* under the words *designing men* I am fearful you thought I had some allusion to yourself in that expression. If so I assure you

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* The score was drawn in the original by Sir Richard himself.

on my word that I had not. Indeed it was not possible I should. I am persuaded you have an affection and regard for both families, whereas the designing men I mean care not for *either*, any farther than their own interests may be promoted, whether by the friendship or disagreement of the two families, which made me hint that had those families continued in harmony it would not have been in the power of any *designing men* to weaken an influence, which being now divided, enables them to gain their ends, which was all I intended by the expression. You mention your design of relating the Caernarvon conversation among your friends. To this I cannot have the smallest objection, if every circumstance be brought forward. But I hope you will allow that a mistake, or the want of particular recollection as to the *time* of a conversation is a very different thing from the conversation itself, between any two persons whatever; I may remember words or expressions, but forget (unless I *book* it) on what day or hour they were used, without being liable to censure or impeachment of memory: The circumstances therefore attending our supposed discourse at Caernarvon may have escaped me, and I may not know whether it happened on a Sunday or Monday, or any other day of the week; but I am as certain as I am of my own existence, that I never said those words which *to the best of your recollection*, you put into my mouth. As to the former part of the conversation which you say passed between us, it amounts to just nothing at all, and if I was speaking of my brother's reluctance to take a parliamentary seat, it would have been a natural inference if I *had* added, that " I supposed if Lord Berwick had then had a son of sufficient

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“ent age that my brother had rather seen him in the “House of Commons than himself.” Not that I know that I did say this, or any thing like it, but it might have passed in a general way, without my recollecting it. As to the other part of the supposed discourse, you only affirm that it passed according to *the best of your recollection*, and I again affirm, that I am as certain as I can be of any thing that it never passed at all. Here then the matter still rests, and I *must* think myself unkindly used in having this Caernarvon visit brought on the carpet, and more so, as it has been the ground of every attack which Mr. W. Hill has made upon me in his different advertisements, and by which I have been compelled to come forward in my own vindication, (indeed in defence of my own honour and probity) though as I told my brother at the beginning of this unhappy business, that I wished to remain as quiet as possible, and to take no other part in it than what was immediately connected with his support when called upon for that purpose. Some part of your letter relates more immediately to my brother than myself. To this therefore as he is absent and will be for some days I can make no reply. I shall shew it to him when he returns, and leave it to him to act as he thinks proper.

I shall add nothing more than that what you call an insinuation of a design to *entrap*, would in the eyes of candour be construed as an exculpation from any such thing. My real personal regard for you, and my esteem for your character, I hope you have long known, and I beg leave to assure these are not lessened. But with regard to
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all this Caernarvon business, I must and do think it ought never to have been mentioned, since after all that has been said, and even admitting it in its utmost latitude it amounts only to "Much ado about Nothing."

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely, &c.

RICHARD HILL;

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CONCLUSION.

I HAVE now laid the whole of this long correspondence before the publick. The reader will observe, and I think will not be surprized, that I suffered Sir Richard to enjoy *the last word*, because, I plainly perceived that "*he hated to be reformed, and cast my words behind him.*" In his letter of the 5th ult. he passes over all the various particulars I had endeavoured to clear up; totally disregarding what I had, a *second* time requested to have explained: and only catches at two or three loose words in my letter. If *he* would not "get a *little & little* conversation by heart, nor put them "down in his pocket book," though, (as in the case before us) it materially concerned the present contest, or any weighty interest of his brother, or most intimate and confidential friend, — then I can only say, that in my opinion he would be to blame; and the only person I know of, that would not think so.

The letter of the 6th ult. was evidently written for the sake of the Shakspearian title with which it concludes. How the subject could occupy his pen through a whole sheet of paper with the most serious animadversions, and in the sequel be deemed "*nothing*," exceeds my powers to comprehend.

I cannot conclude without remarking, that I have no doubt that Sir Richard's friends will assert, if they find they

they cannot controvert it, that, admitting the conversation to have taken place, as I have stated it, at Caernarvon, — yet that it is totally irrelevant to the present contest, — for, they will say, no private understanding between Sir R. and the late Lord B. could barter away the rights of the Electors of Shrewsbury. This last observation I have ever admitted, and still do admit, in its fullest extent. The borough is certainly open to the competition of any British subject, legally qualified to become a member of the legislature, and not restrained by any principles of honour, from engaging in such competition: — and the only persons who seem to be of a different opinion are those who assert, that if we presume to elect any one else than Mr. John Hill, *our liberties are gone for ever*. But if the *idea* under which Mr. J. H. first came forward, was, that he would not be instrumental in obstructing the future attempt of any son of his friend and relation Lord B. to aspire to the favour of the town, (and who, that reads his own very strong expressions, as quoted in LETTER II; that believes Sir R. spoke the words I have stated him to speak; or that considers the invariable testimony of all the late Lord's friends, coupled with the circumstance of Sir R. being Member for the County, can doubt it? (if such, I say, *was* the idea, every one must draw the conclusion, as to what *ought* to be his conduct upon the present occasion; — and my long acquaintance with him may well excuse me from the unpleasant task.

EDWARD BURTON.

Shrewsbury, February 29, 1796.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE finishing the foregoing publication, I have met with the *fourth* edition of "Hard Measure," wherein Sir Richard Hill stigmatizes "the near connexions of Lord Berwick and the Honourable William Hill," and "the principals themselves," for furnishing "an Hired Scoundrel, an anonymous assassin," with "materials and family anecdotes to mix with his trash."*

One can hardly suppose the author serious in his disapprobation of anonymous writings, as he has been so repeatedly concerned in such a mode of publication: and in his attack on the pious and exemplary Dr. Adams, he subscribes himself "Philaethes," justifying the *preference* he gives to an anonymous signature, in the following manner; — "I once thought to have annexed my name to this letter; but names, as saith a late *ingenious* writer, being of little consequence where truth is in question, I subscribe myself, &c. &c."† To enumerate all his productions of a like nature would far exceed the usual limits of a postscript. By what rule of right, or by what rule at all, he claims the sole privilege to load with contumely the most respectable characters, and to assume fictitious signatures himself, yet to inveigh against such signatures when used by others, I shall again leave to his own notions of consistency to unravel.

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* Conclusion of Supplement to Hard Measure, 4th edition.

† Conclusion of Sir Richard Hill's Letter to Dr. Adams, 1770.

What letters or documents the Attingham family, may have thought proper to furnish the author of "Measure for Measure" with, I cannot say; I presume they are satisfied, that after so much moderation and forbearance exhibited on their part, on such repeated provocations, it was a duty they owed to themselves.

As to myself, if I am hinted at by the words "near connexions," (and upon that supposition alone is this postscript added) I GLORY in declaring that, although I have no concern in the writing or publishing the work in question, yet that I have furnished the author with some facts, within my knowledge, which I shall be ever ready to explain, or answer for whenever called upon. I am satisfied it was a *duty* I owed both to *God* and *Man*. I could not help reflecting that Sir Richard Hill's pamphlet in all its forms had for its sole object the defaming of persons just entering on the career of life, and those persons the sons of my late most dear and worthy friend, whose ~~memory~~ when I cease to revere, may every Salopian despise my name, and every friend or acquaintance I have in the world, detest my character!

If I have a right conception of the author of "Measure for Measure," he is a man of honour, and a gentleman. And I believe he has undertaken his publication from the purest and most disinterested of motives — from his feelings. What may be the spirit of his work I have already signified I know not: but here I cannot help remarking, that I think Sir R. Hill has allowed his temper to get the better of his discretion. He has *begun* upon this author
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by *calling names* even before the appearance of his work. "An Anonymous Assassin and Hired Scoundrel," are Sir Richard's own words in his own record. If therefore any thing severe or acrimonious is met with in that publication, every *impartial* reader will remember it is *written in reply*,† and, recollecting these appellations, he will so READ, COMPARE, and DETERMINE.

† I told Sir Richard Hill in the public street, on Tuesday the twelfth of January last, that he should recollect his party had commenced the attack, in every shape; that the *first* (as also the *last*) addresses *with* signatures, were his brother's; that the *first* incendiary publication (the Free Man) *without* a signature, was his party's; and that the ONLY book had been published by HIMSELF.

ADDENDA.

The following Note was omitted in page 42, line 11, from the bottom, of this work, after the words "as quoted in Letter II." *

* My letter here referred to was written in great haste, and I quoted Mr. John Hill's expressions *from memory since the year 1784*. I have since obtained the original, and find Mr. J. Hill's words to be "You probably will be much surprized when you hear that I am (with your permission) likely to become Member for Salop." — "The new Baronet (Sir R. Leighton) declared that he was very glad to give up to me, *provided you had no objection*," [These last words scored under in the original] "as I flatter myself that is the case I venture to proceed, &c."

FINIS.

The two following Letters were omitted to be inserted in their proper places, as the publisher conceived they only tended to increase the bulk of his work, and to create repetition. They were forwarded to Mr. John Hill, and are now printed at his request.

JOHN HILL, ESQ. TO EDWARD BURTON, ESQ.

DECEMBER 18th, 1795.

DEAR E. BURTON,

ALL I wished to have said to you this morning relative to the unfortunate contest was that as my brother's name had been publickly mention'd he intended to answer in the same manner.

With regard to what you privately say on the money transaction I cannot see that any reflection can be thrown on his (my b's) recollection on that account, he accidentally finds himself possessed of a note of hand from the late Lord Berwick for 1000l. he naturally enquires of his banker and steward (who has the management of his cash account) to account for this they are total strangers to the transaction, what could he do more than apply to Lord Ber-

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wick or those who have the management of his concerns, for an explanation, and he had one, that he was happy to receive, being perfectly satisfactory, this happened at the moment he was going to make a considerable stay abroad, and he did not recollect the circumstance of his having bought an estate of Lord Berwick which was immediately exchanged for one from Mr. Gardiner of Sansaw without any money ever coming into his hands or of those who manage his cash account, this I believe to be the true statement of that transaction and I think will hardly be thought of weight enough to bring into publick discussion, and dye away I hope with our last letters.

Your's sincerely

J. HILL.

I inclose the note of hand above alluded to.

EDWARD BURTON, ESQ. TO JOHN HILL, ESQ.

DECEMBER 19th, 1795.

DEAR J. HILL,

I AM forry I was from home yesterday when you were so good to call.

I perfectly agree with you, that no reflection can be thrown on your brother's recollection relative to the money transaction

transaction with Lord Berwick, and I assure you nothing of the kind was ever meant. I only mentioned it as an immediate instance that occurred, and was known to all of us, that things constantly pass which escape our recollections. And God knows the conversation that has been recorded might have passed my memory long ago, if it had not been told me, as I conceived and have already signified, by way of message to relate again; therefore, fearful of not being correct, I in a manner *got it by heart*, although I little thought of its being brought into public discussion; retaining it on my mind, however, I informed you of it immediately this cursed unfortunate business begun, together with the Attingham people also. This of course spread, and probably, like most reports, with additions. It next was glanced at, but not at my request, in Mr. W. Hill's address, which occasioned the denial. Finding myself thus implicated, I wrote immediately to you on that occasion; and not hearing any thing that could tend to correct my recollection I was constrained to warrant Mr. William Hill to detail what I thought and believed, upon the most mature reflection, the real statement, and if I was upon my dying bed I should confirm in the same manner. If your brother does not recollect or believe any thing of the matter, it certainly is not in my power to persuade him, and I cannot help it. I certainly do wish you had mentioned it early, as I might possibly then have known what your brother had to offer on the subject, and the business might have ended without my appearing to enter the list against a family I always did, and ever shall entertain a respect and regard for. I dare say you and I have nearly the same feelings
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upon being torn from our domestic fire sides, to be launched into the field of controversy.

As to publishing the transaction about the money concern, I run all fours with you in thinking it of no weight. I shall publish nothing but through compulsion for explanation, although I request to have any transaction of mine made publick, if of any use to yourselves, as I am not conscious of having done any thing I wish concealed.

I am,
Dear J. Hill,
Your's sincerely,
EDWARD BURTON.